

1.913
E2C922
Cop 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

February 18, 1947

TO ALL STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

For administrative use only

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - # 4

No further hearings on H. R. 1388 were held last week. "Grapevine" thinking seems to be that further hearings will be postponed until permanent farm labor legislation is introduced and that H. R. 1388 will be reported out by the House Committee on Agriculture probably this week.

Director F. A. Anderson, of Colorado, chairman of the subcommittee on a permanent farm labor program advises me that the recommendations of his committee were approved by the Committee on Organization and Policy meeting in Washington, D. C. February 8 to 10. Similar action was taken by the Executive Committee of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, which met February 10 to 12. The following is taken from the statement approved by the Executive Committee:

"Most of the discussion of the Emergency Farm Labor Program has centered around its recruitment and placement aspects. Other factors are, however, much more important in a permanent program. Farm labor problems are so closely integrated with other problems of farm production that they are logically a part of the agricultural extension, research, and other educational programs of the Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. Questions of recruitment and placement will continue to diminish in importance. Questions of labor utilization, housing, and of adjustment of agricultural production in relation to the prospective available supply of labor, will become increasingly important. Recruitment and placement are being handled increasingly by farm groups and associations. This is a sound development and should be encouraged in any permanent program.

"It seems clear that the work of the Agricultural Extension Service in the Emergency Farm Labor Program has been well done. It has been enthusiastically commended by farmers in all sections of the country.

"It is inescapable that whatever agency administers the permanent farm labor program, the County Agricultural Agent will (as has always been the case) be expected by farmers to assist with the solution of their farm labor problems. The general satisfaction with his work in this connection, both during the war and prior to the war, emphasizes the well established dependence by farmers upon the County Agricultural Agent for this type of assistance.

"The above considerations lead to the conclusion that a permanent farm labor program, desired by the farm people of the United States and emphasizing the educational aspects of the farm labor problem, should be established at the national level in the federal Department of Agriculture and in the States under the supervision of the Land-Grant Colleges and Universities to the extent that the governing authorities of the latter are willing to assume responsibility for such a program."

A meeting of farm labor supervisors and assistants from 10 Atlantic seaboard States is set for West Palm Beach, Florida March 13 and 14, to discuss the problems of migratory labor. Since this is the fourth year such a meeting has been held, the basic structure of procedure has been quite well formulated. Therefore, the main theme of the conference this year will be the establishment of fuller understanding and cooperation between migrants and their employers.

April 29 to May 2 are the tentative dates for the annual wheat and small grain harvest conference scheduled for Kansas, starting at Wichita. Night stops will be at Dodge City, Hays, and Manhattan. There will be day tours and evening meetings. A visit to the Hays Experiment station is scheduled for May 1. For those who remain at Manhattan on May 2, there will be visits to the Kansas State College campus and the college experiment farm. Details will be in the hands of State supervisors about April 1.

From Georgia there has come an attractively arranged 16-page mimeographed copy of a 4-year State farm labor report, entitled "What Georgia Did in Four Years." It is neatly bound in a green cover, cleverly illustrated with line drawings, and does a good job in telling Georgia people what was accomplished in the Extension Farm Labor program. Congratulations to State Supervisor Smith and staff on an effective yet inexpensive job.

Thanks to State Supervisor Ford Mercer, of Oklahoma, who came through with the first of the requested material for use in a magazine story on the wheat and small grain harvest program.

New York has just completed a very successful 3-day labor utilization training school for county farm labor assistants. Write to Elton K. Hanks, State Farm Labor Supervisor, for a copy of the materials distributed.

Guy Dowdy, State Farm Labor Supervisor in Ohio, writes: "The farm and home labor-saving show has now completed 4 weeks in this State. The average attendance the first week was 604, the second week 812, the third week 1,165, and the fourth week 1,213. We find when the attendance exceeds 1,000 to 1,200 the show is not as effective as when the number is somewhat less. The available buildings are too small to accommodate properly a large mass of people. The result is that people jam around and elbow through, do not have opportunity to meet the specialists, and do not request literature."

The response to my request for early forwarding of annual reports, especially the statistical reports, has been most gratifying. To date 37 statistical and 20 narrative reports have been received.

Very truly yours,

Meredith C. Wilson

Meredith C. Wilson
Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program

